

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a line card 100 in accordance with the present invention. The line card 100 includes a receiving unit 120 and a transmitting unit 122. The receiving unit 120 includes a deframer unit 102, a packet engine unit 104, and a packet processor 106. The transmitting unit 122 includes a framer unit 112, a packet engine unit 110, and a packet processor 108. The line card 100 is connected to a network 101.

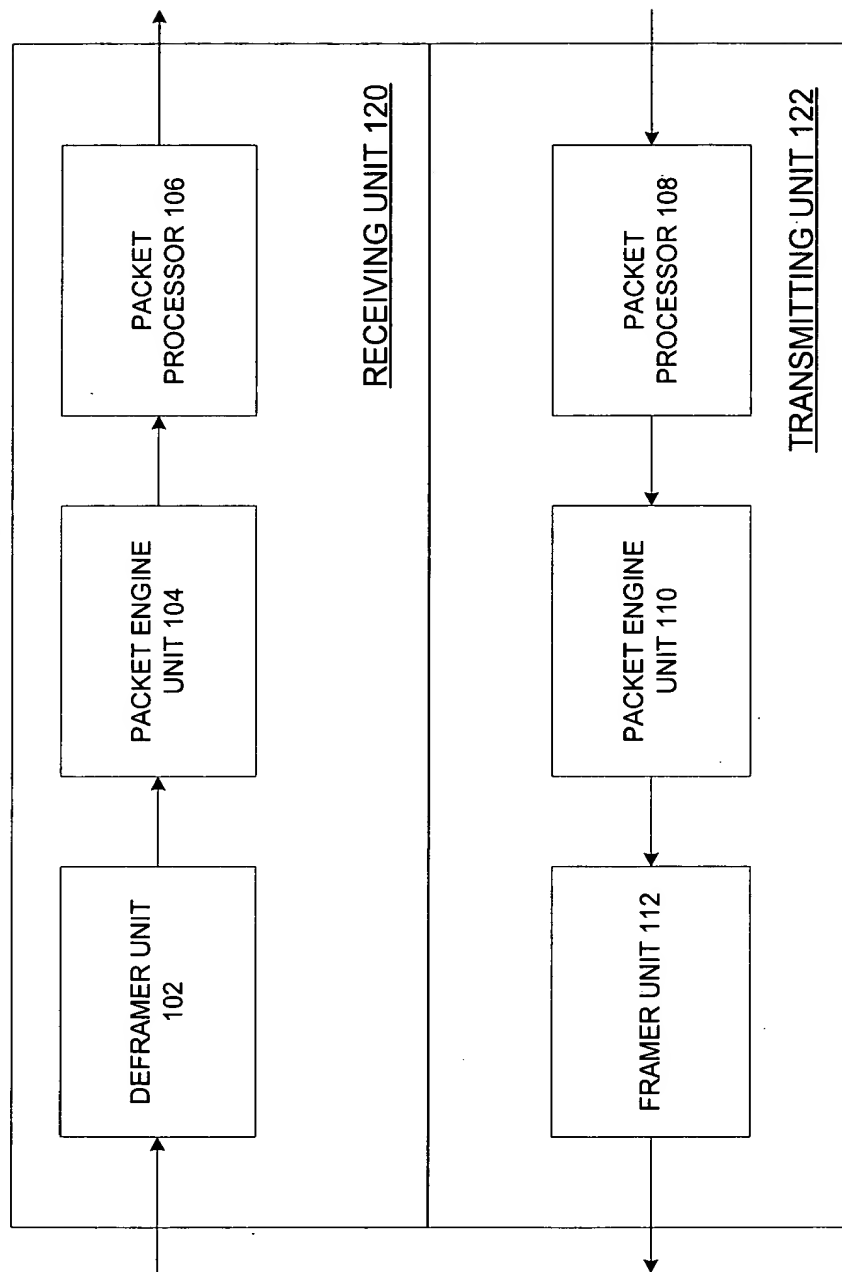


FIG. 1 (prior art)

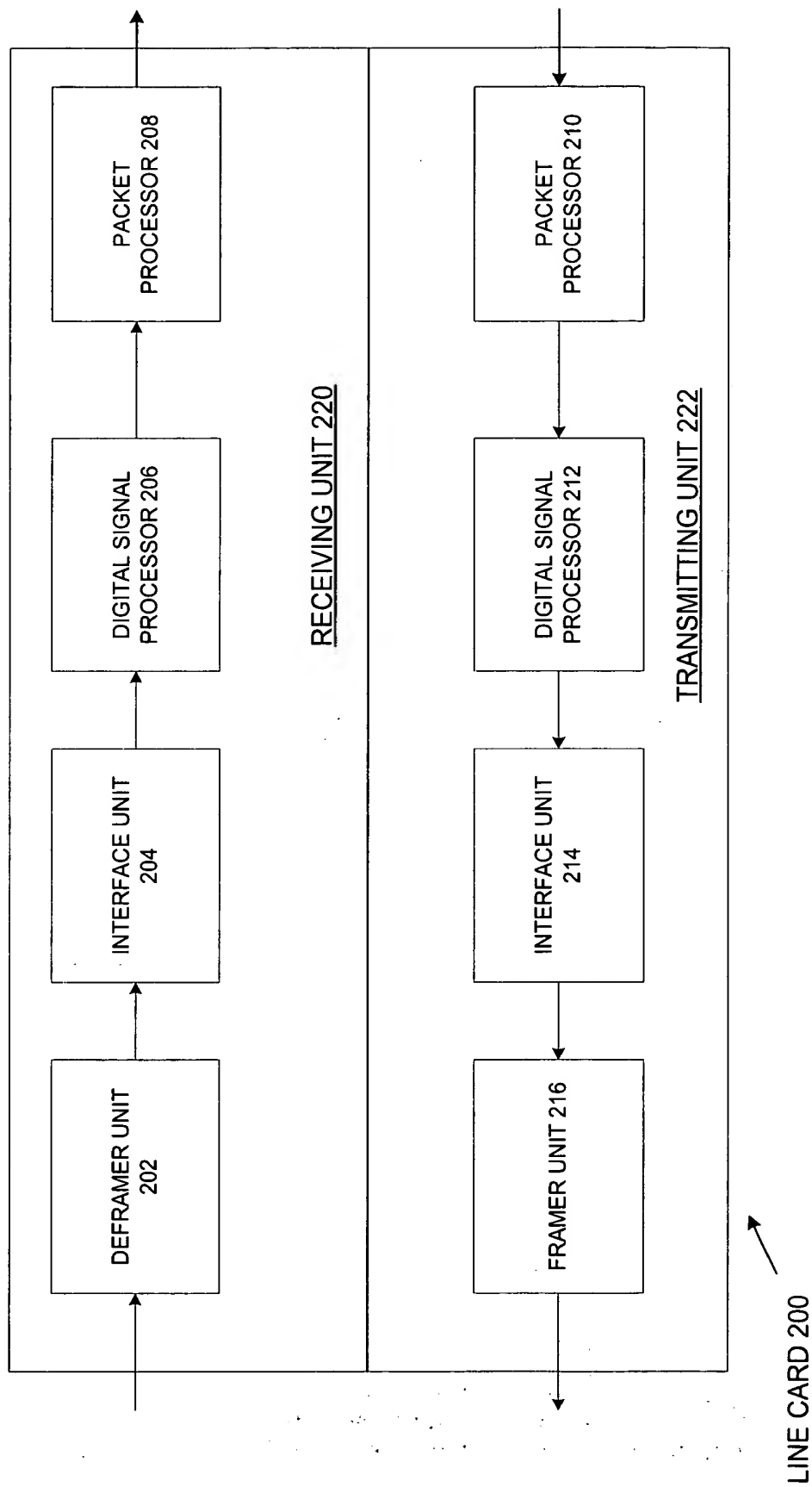


FIG. 2 (prior art)

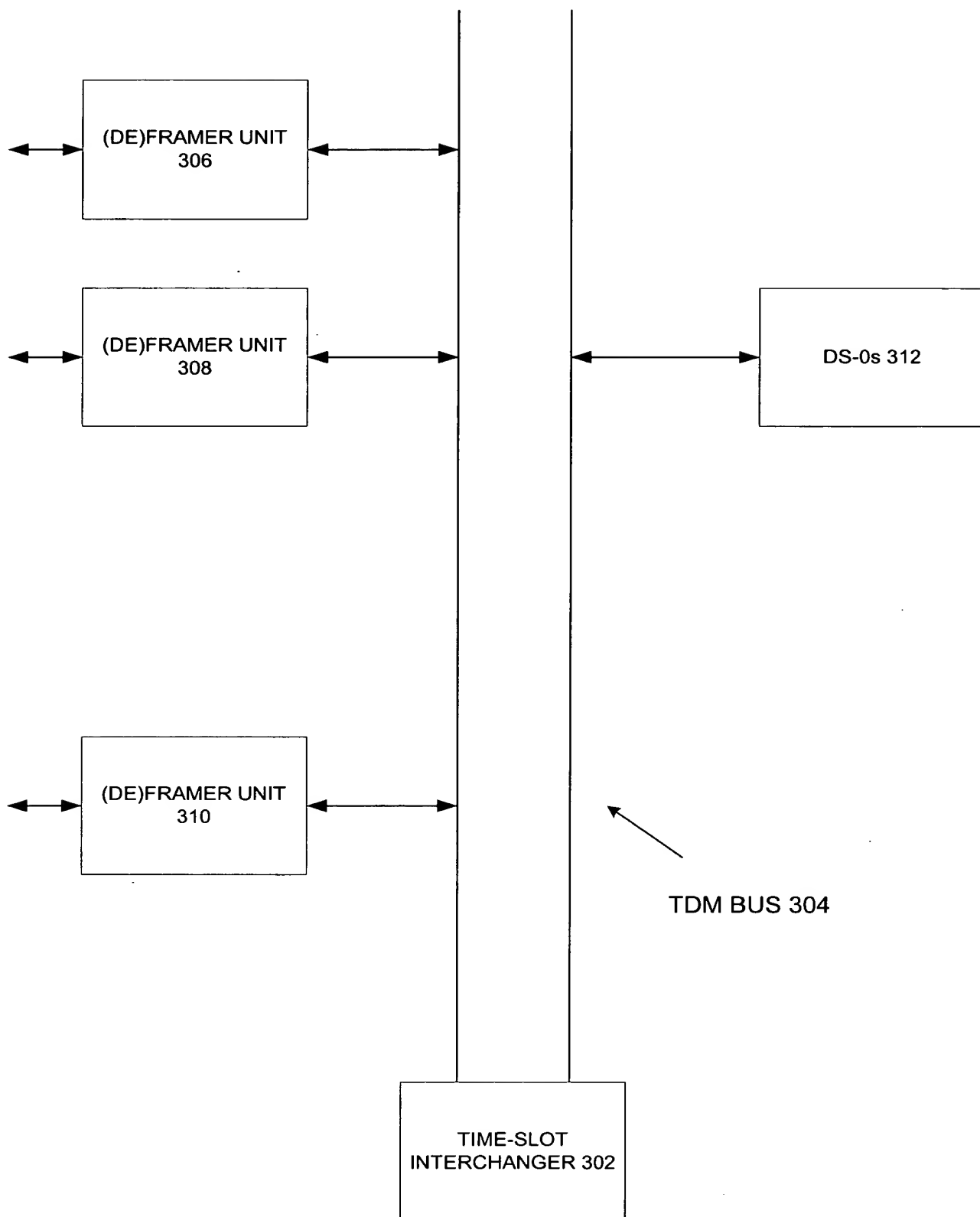


FIG. 3 (prior art)

SYSTEM 400

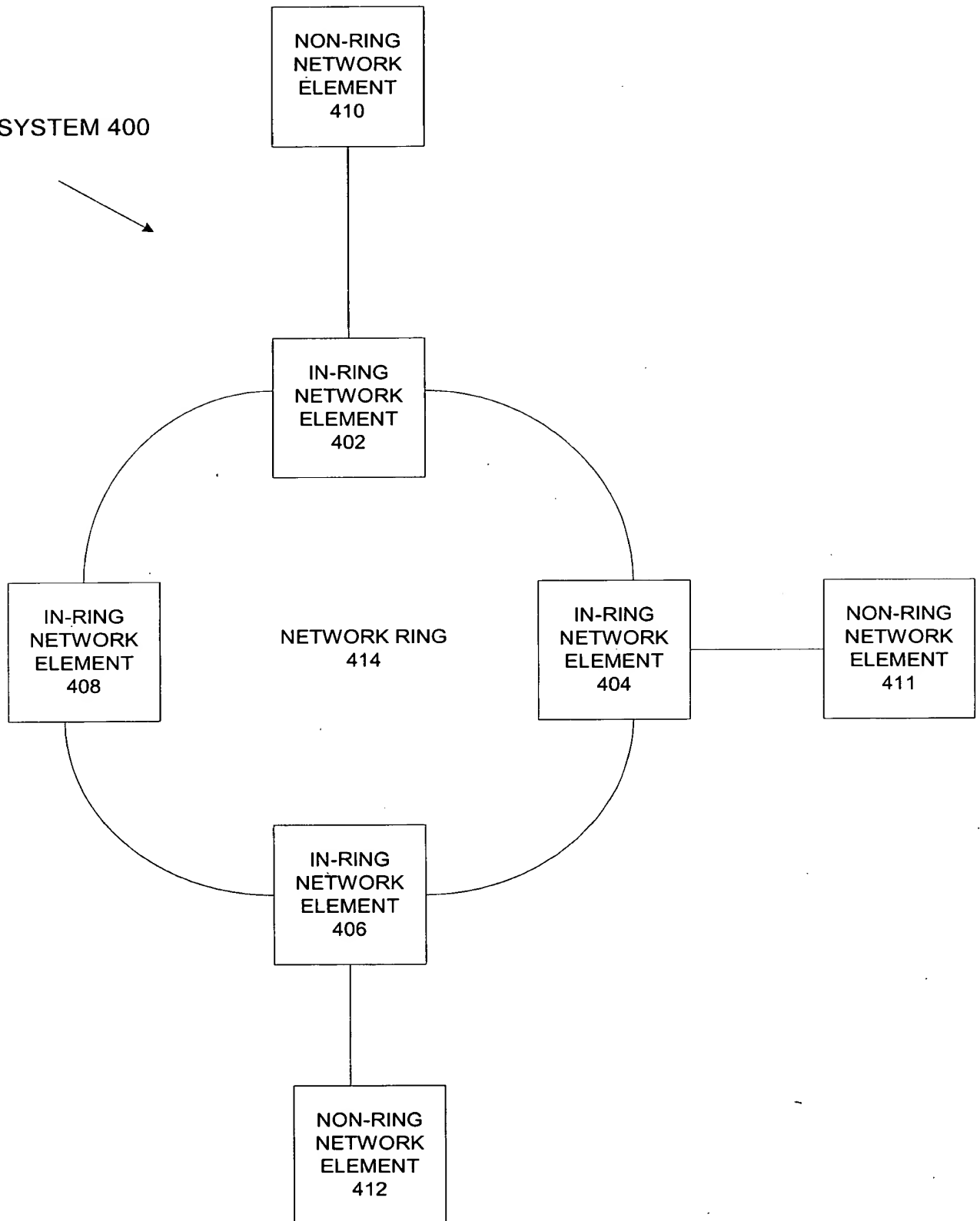


FIG. 4

FIG. 5 is a block diagram of a network element 402-408, showing four line cards (502a, 502b, 502c, 502d) and a control card (520). Each line card contains ingress and egress packet processing circuitry (512, 514) and physical connection circuitry (510). The line cards are interconnected via a packet mesh (526). The control card (520) contains TDM switching circuitry (516) and is connected to the line cards via dashed lines.

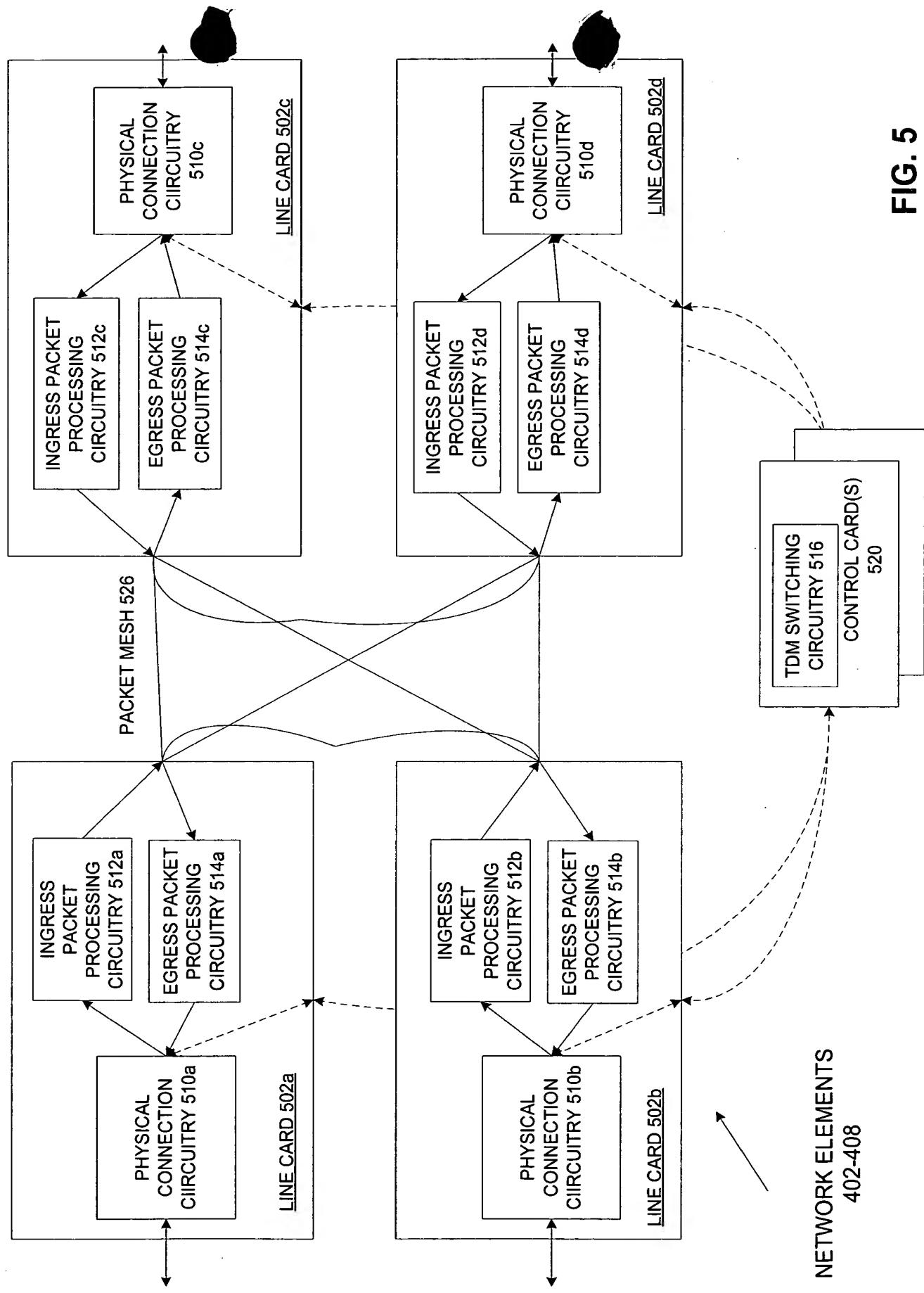


FIG. 5

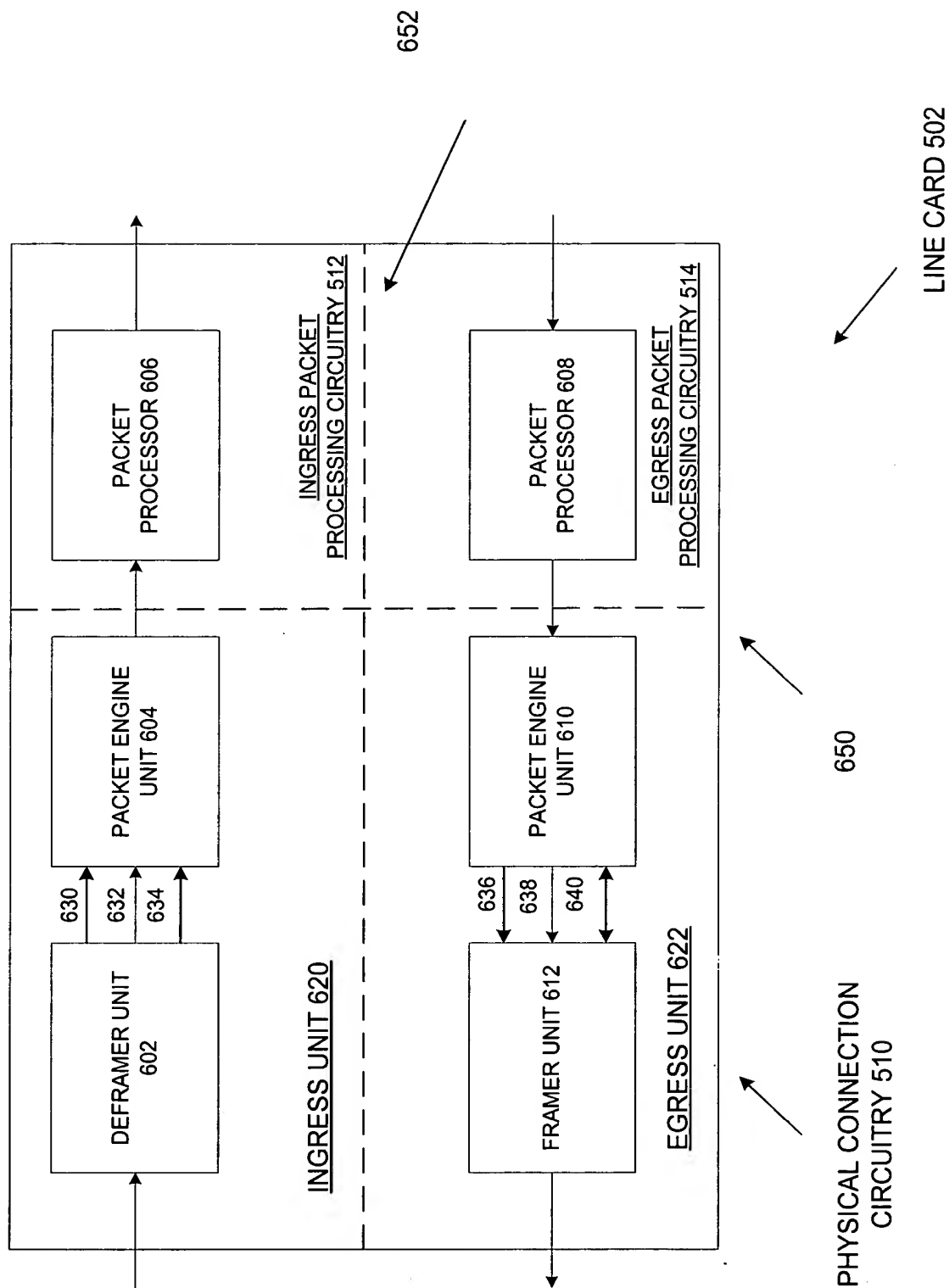


FIG. 6

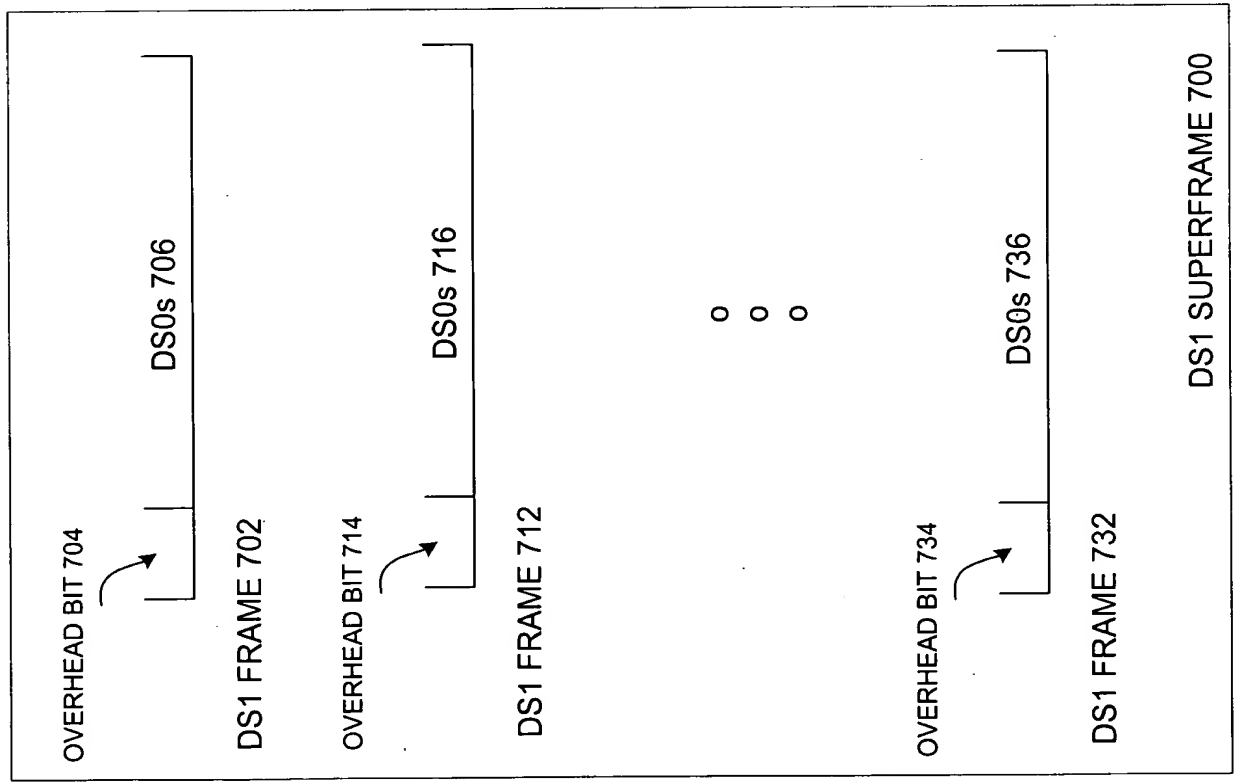


FIG. 7

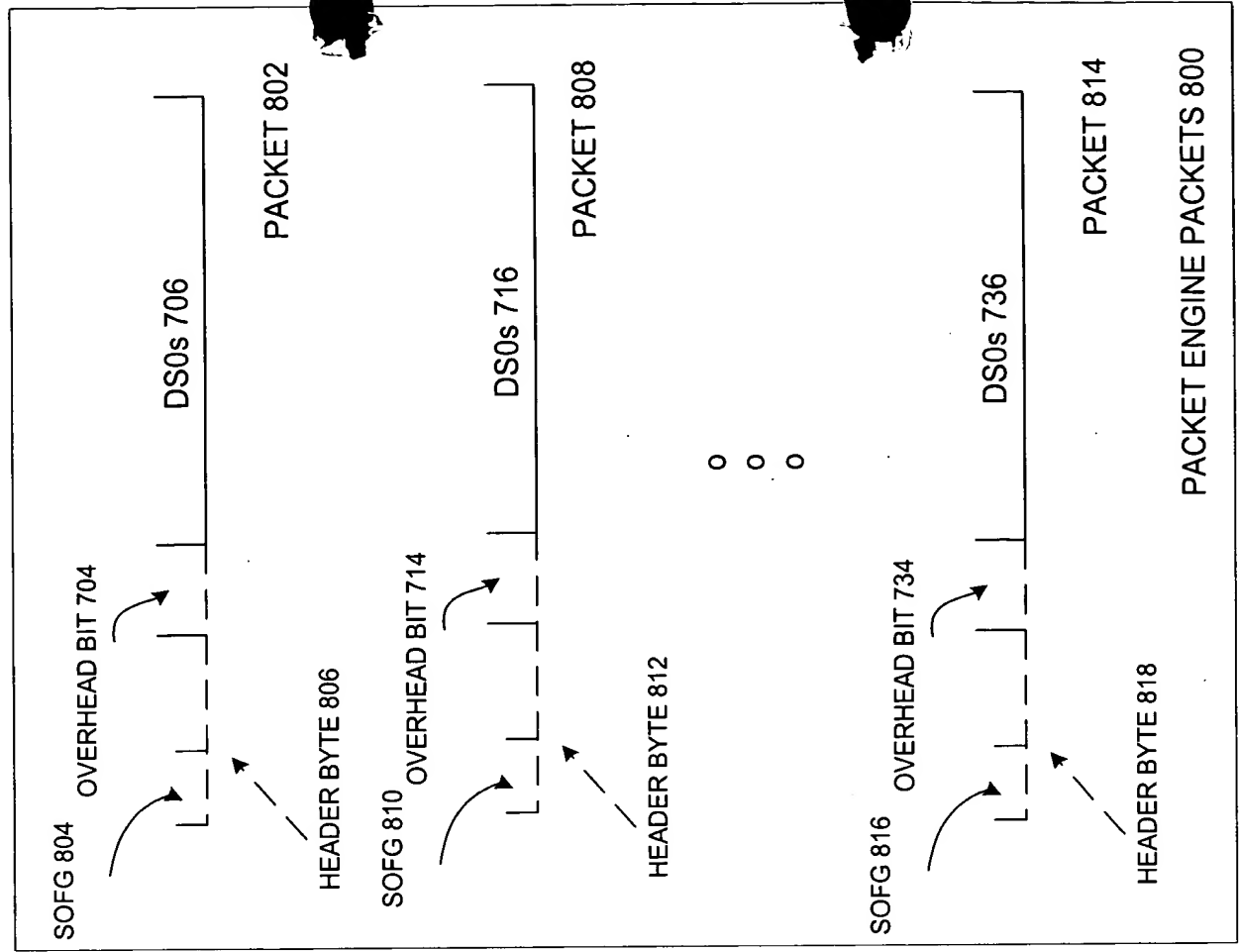


FIG. 8